Vol. IX. Numb. 28.

THE OBSERVATOR.

An Enquiry into the Cauſes of the late Rebellious Tumults, and preſent Ferments, among us with the Deſign of 'em; and of ſome of our late Addreſſes, particularly that ſaid to be from the County of Oxford.

From Wednesday, April 19, to Saturday, April 22. 1710.

Countrym. SINCE we have had ſo many Accounts, Mr. *Obſervator*, of the Rebellious Practices of the Faction all over the Kingdom, and ſince 'tis evident that what they could not effect by their Tumults and Riots, they endeavour to accompliſh by their Seditious Addreſſes, I muſt deſire your Opinion as to the Cauſes of this Unnatural Ferment, and how it comes to ſpread ſo Far, and with ſo much Fury.

Obſ. The Lord Biſhop of *Sarum* has in a great Meaſure done that to our Hand, *Roger*, by his Excellent Speech in the Houſe of Lords, upon the Firſt Article of Impeachment againſt Dr. *Sacheverell*. It has been formerly obſerv'd in this Paper, that the Faction began to ſhew themſelves in the very Convention; for as ſoon as they had recover'd from the Blow which ſtunn'd them at the Revolution, they violently oppos'd both the Abdication and the Vacancy of the Throne. Though ſome of thoſe Men had been as loud in their Complaints againſt King *James*'s Male-Adminiſtration as any, yet it was only with Reſpect to his employing of Papiſts, and taking upon him to diſpence with the Laws againſt Proteſtant Diſſenters, whom they hated more than the other; ſo that they were neither for changing Maſters, nor indeed the Arbitrary Meaſures of that Reign. Their Aim was only to keep the Government and Chief Adminiſtration both of Church and State in the Hands of themſelves and their Faction; but being diſappointed of that, the Honeſteſt of them (for there are Degrees even in Wickedneſs) declared themſelves openly againſt the Dethronement of King *James*, againſt the Inthronement of King *William* and Queen *Mary*, againſt the ſetting Aſide of the Pretender, and againſt Entailing the Crown upon Her Preſent Majeſty and Her Iſſue, in caſe Queen *Mary* ſhould die without Children. Theſe Men, though they concurr'd in oppoſing King *James*, and approv'd the Reſiſtance then made to him by the Prince of *Orange* and the Nation, which was Rebellion, and a Damnable Sin, according to the Doctrine of Paſſive-Obedience, inſtead of going forward, went backward, refus'd the Oaths to the Government, upon which ſeveral Biſhops of that Sort were depriv'd, and all the Laity of their Principles made themſelves uncapable of any Poſt. But the other and more dangerous Party, which at this Day give us ſo much Trouble, complied, took the Oaths to King *William* and Queen *Mary* as King and Queen *de Facto*, which, as the Lord Biſhop of *Sarum* juſtly obſerves in his Speech, *p.* 13. is only a ſofter Word for an Uſurper, and with this Diſtinction the Univerſity of *Oxon* fell in, as his Lordſhip there informs us; and we know well enough that many of the other Univerſity did the like: The Fountains of Learning being thus corrupted, ſuch Clergymen, and others, bred there ſince that Time have generally been tainted with thoſe Pernicious Principles, and nurſed up in an Averſion to the Preſent Conſtitution. His Lordſhip informs us farther, in that ſame Page, that the Faction found out another Salvo for taking the Abjuration Oath, and renouncing the Pretender, *viz.* that they only abjur'd *his Legal Right*, without any relation to his *Birth-right*, or *Divine Right*.

Countrym. I don't underſtand that, Mr. *Obſervator*, pray explain it to me.

Obſ. 'Tis as great Nonſence, *Roger*, as Tranſubſtantiation, and therefore cann't be explain'd; 'tis a direct Contradiction, and nothing but a Cheat upon their own Conſciences, as well as upon the Government; only I take the Meaning of it to be, *that he had no Right by our preſent Laws ſince the Revolution*, which is ſo groſs a Prevarication, and ſuch a mental Reſerve, as ſcarce any Modeſt Papiſt would own or juſtifie; yet 'tis no New Thing among thoſe call'd High-Churchmen, for by Sir *Simon d' Ew*'s Journal it appears, that thoſe, call'd Papiſts, in Queen *Elizabeth*'s Time, conformed both to the Government and the Church upon ſome ſuch Diſtinctions; for tho' they complied to ſave their Poſts in Church and State, and to have Opportunities to plot the Ruin of both, as they frequently did, yet they look'd upon the Church of *England*, as Eſtabliſh'd in the Time of Popery, to be the only True Church, and from thoſe very Men our preſent High-Church derive their Origine, Principles, and Practices.

Countrym. That's a heavy Charge, Mr.; how do you make it out? The Lord Biſhop of *Sarum*'s Word, not your's, will not be taken in the Caſe; therefore pray let me have your Vouchers.

Obſ. Any Man that caſts his Eye upon Sir *Simon d' Ews*'s Journal, *Roger*, may ſee what I ſay fully prov'd; for Page 23d, of the Journal of the Lords, he ſays, there were but 14 Biſhops Depriv'd for adhering to Popery, and of 9400 Eccleſiaſticks; there were only 177 who left their Livings to continue in Popery; that the Queen ſuffer'd Heretical and obſtinately Popiſh Biſhops, beſides the Abbot of *Weſtminſter*, to have free Voices in Parliament, Page 30, and that they oppos'd every Thing tending to Reformation; yet moſt of the Papiſts of *England* came to the Church, till Pope *Pius* by his Bull enforc'd their Separation: Then *Roger*, that a great many of thoſe Clergymen who conform'd were not thorow-pac'd Proteſtants, is evident from the whole Tenour of thoſe Journals. They and the Laymen of their Faction prevail'd ſo far on the Queen, that She would ſuffer no Bill to be brought in for a further Reformation. She took that wholly upon Herſelf, and told the Parliament afterwards, in Anſwer to their Petition, that She had committed the Reforming of Abuſes in the Church to Her Biſhops, and ſome of the

the Clergy, but they neglected it, therefore She would commit it to others that ſhould be more careful, Page 302. From all this 'tis plain who it was that oppos'd the Reformation of thoſe Things which have ſince divided the Proteſtants of this Nation into Churchmen and Diſſenters: Nay, the High-Church Party had ſo much Influence that they prevail'd with the Queen to interpoſe for Dr. *Parry*, who was cenſur'd by the Houſe for oppoſing the Bill againſt Seminary Prieſts, Page 340, and 341, and procured ſevere Laws againſt the Diſſenters in the 35th Year of Her Reign, while at the ſame Time the Papiſts were plotting the Deſtruction of Her Perſon and Government, as may be ſeen by the ſaid Journal, which is a Plain Proof that our High-Churchmen and Papiſts did then act in Conjunction, and levell'd their Fury againſt the the Puritans, of whom they rais'd Hideous Clamours, the better to cover their own Deſigns. And though the Wiſeſt and Beſt of the Queen's Miniſters ſaw this, and oppos'd it, yet Her Majeſty was ſo much propoſſeſs'd in Favour of thoſe High-Churchmen, that their Oppoſition ſignified nothing; and I make bold to tell you, *Roger*, that this Falſe Step of that Great Queen laid the Foundation of all thoſe Religious Diviſions that have ſince been ſo Fatal to this Iſland.

Countrym. Well, Maſter, you have ſufficiently prov'd that our preſent High-fliers derive their Origine from Q. *Elizabeth*'s Church Papiſts, but I want ſome further Poof of the Lord Biſhop of *Sarum*'s Charge that our Factious Clergy, *&c.* prevaricate in the Matter of the Abjuration of the Pretender by Knaviſh Diſtinction.

Obſ. His Lordſhip prov'd it ſo home by appealing to a Noble Lord on the Earls Bench, who ſhew'd him the Letter ſent about among the Clergy with that Diſtinction, that it is not to be contracted, *Roger*; for had it been falſe that Earl was oblig'd in Honour to have ſaid ſo: But if you will have further Proof you ſhall have it from one of the Leaders of our Factious and Seditious Clergy, and that is from Mr. *Leſley* in the Preface to his *Pontificate* and *Regale*, Edit. 2. *p.* xi. where he has theſe Words, 'I believe 'there were not ſo many as half a Dozen of the 'Clergy who have the Honour to be ſuſpected in 'in it, (meaning the Revolution, as appears *p.* x.) 'or who were entruſted with the Secret; for 'not to reckon upon the Archbiſhop, and Eight 'other Biſhops with him, (who were near the 'Half of the then Biſhops in the Kingdom,) 'and betwixt Three or Four Hundred of the 'Inferiour Benefic'd Clergy, beſides many others 'who are not known, who have ſtood their 'Ground: This appears yet more in that *Re-* '*luctancy* which many, and the moſt Eminent 'of thoſe that comply'd, did expreſs in their ſwal-'lowing the Oaths with Declarations, *Higher* 'and *Lower*, ſome ſticking out to the laſt Day, 'and ſome even after.

Countrym. That's a Proof with a Witneſs, Maſter, of the Origine of all thoſe Seditious and Rebellious Tumults, which run over the Nation like Wild-fire; for ſo many of the Clergy being thus prepared, 'tis eaſie for them to blow up the Ignorant People into a Flame, who know no other than as their Leaders teach them; and on the Pretence of eſpouſing the Cauſe of the Church are thus rais'd into Actual Rebellion againſt the Queen and Parliament.

Obſ. You ſay well, *Roger*, the Poor People are deluded, and you ſee the Ferment is Induſtriouſly carried on by Seditious Addreſſes, which fly in the Face of Her Majeſty and the Parliament, by inſinuating ſtill the Danger of the Church and State from Her Majeſty's Aminiſtration; and they make I know not what Noiſe of Republicans, Deiſts, *&c.* and of Attacks on the Prerogative, meerly to cover their own Manifeſt Rebellious Tumults, and their Deſigns to overturn the Miniſtry, and diſſolve the preſent Houſe of Common; but do they think Her Majeſty does not ſee through this. Tho' they have forgot, or rather never minded, Her moſt Gracious Speech, they cannot think the Queen is unſenſible of thoſe repeated Affronts, ſince She was graciouſly pleaſed to tell all Her Subjects from the Throne that it was very Injurious, from Prophane, and other Wicked and Malicious, Libels which have been complain'd of in all Times, to take a Pretence to inſinuate that the Church is in any Danger under Her Adminiſtration; beſides, 'tis the moſt Diſingenuous Thing in the World for them to make ſuch a Clamour, ſince their own Party have publiſh'd ſuch Blaſphemous, Traiterous, and Irreligious Things, as appears by that, call'd, *A New Catechiſm, with Dr.* Hick's *39 Articles*, as were never heard of in a Proteſtant Nation; and we defie them to ſhew any Thing writ againſt our Fundamental Conſtitution by the Revolution Party, or that tends to overturn our Monarchy as limited by Law; though one of their Faction had the Impudence to dedicate to the Queen and the Houſe of Commons a Villainous Pamphlet, call'd, *King* William's *Exorbitant Grants*, which made that Prince an Uſurper, Her Majeſty only a Guardian for Her Pretended Brother, and boldly propoſed a Scheme for bringing him to the Throne; yet as the Lord Biſhop of *Sarum* tells us, the then Miniſtry did not proſecute that Treaſonable Pamphlet.

Countrym. One would wonder at the Aſſurance of the Faction, Maſter, ſince Her Majeſty in Her moſt Gracious Speech *wiſh'd that all Men would ſtudy to be Quiet, and do their own Buſineſs, rather than revive Queſtions and Diſputes of a very High Nature, and with an* Ill Intention, *ſince they can only tend to foment, but not to heal, our Diviſions and Animoſities*; that yet they ſhould in their very Addreſſes to Her Majeſty inſiſt upon thoſe Queſtions, and particularly in that call'd the Addreſs of the County of *Oxford*, wherein they defend the Decree of their Univerſity which the Houſe of Lords order'd to be burnt by the Hangman; this is directly to fly in the Face of Her Majeſty, and the Houſe of Lords; and we ſee their Regard to Her Majeſty's Prerogative, by ſuggeſting to Her in ſuch an Inſolent Manner to diſſolve the preſent Houſe of Commons, with whoſe Zeal and Loyalty She has declar'd Herſelf ſo well ſatisfied in a particular Manner; but more of thoſe Things another Time.

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